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BULLETIN OF THE PENNSYLVANIA MUSEUM

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AMERICANIZATION THROUGH ART

The "Americanization through Art" exhibition which, with the approval of the Board of Trustees of the Pennsylvania Museum, was arranged for by Mrs. Edward T. Stotesbury and a committee which she formed for the purpose, has drawn many visitors to Memorial Hall. A private view on January 19th, for which invitations were issued, brought out many of the most prominent people in the artistic and social life of the city.

The exhibition was held in connection with a conference-dinner which was given by Mr. and Mrs. Edward T. Stotesbury for the representatives of the National Americanization Committee, and these distinguished visitors were included in the invitations to the private view. Among them were such well-known names as those of Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Astor, Mr. Robert Bacon, Mr. Frank Trumbull, who is the chairman of the Americanization Committee, Felix Warburg, Clarence Gibbons, Mary Antin, and others whose names are familiar in the world of affairs or of sociology.

Mrs. Stotesbury spared no effort to make the exhibition a success. She called to her assistance Miss Emily Sartain, of the School of Design for Women, Mrs. Cornelius Stevenson, Mr. John F. Lewis, president of the Academy of Fine Arts, Dr. Edwin AtLee Barber, Mr. Samuel S. Fleisher, director of the Graphic Sketch Club, Mr. John Albert Myers and Mr. Howard Fremont Stratton of the School of Industrial Art. Under their management the exhibition, entered upon with certain doubts as to the result, owing to the limits imposed by the conditions of eligibility, grew in size and importance until it became a memorable display of the work of artists of foreign birth or parentage.

The thought of attempting such an exhibition was suggested to a member of the committee by Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney's exhibit in New York, which was connected with Mrs. Vincent Astor's first dinner conference in October. That was a competitive exhibition for which Mrs. Whitney offered prizes amounting in the aggregate to \$1,100 for the best works representing the immigrant in art. It was the wish of the National Committee on Americanization that Mrs. Whitney's collection should be sent around the country in connection with such meetings in the large centers where an effort at Americanization was being developed.

It seemed to the committee that in Pennsylvania—where the art life of the people, through splendid training schools, had been yielding such superb fruit—it might be worth while to gather together the work of these foreign-born artists and to show that the inspiration received was not altogether one-sided, and that many of these sons and daughters of foreign climes had brought with them rich natural gifts that only needed the opportunity to grow into an element of beauty that is enriching our American art life.

The result has been amazing, even to those who evolved the thought. The committee was quite unprepared for the wealth of excellent work that was submitted in answer to the invitations sent out. The number of screens originally ordered had to be doubled and more, before hanging space could be secured for all that was worthy of acceptance by a discriminating hanging committee, and the local exhibition, in point of number, if in nothing else, quite outgrew that which had suggested it. Mrs. Whitney's exhibit of seventy-three pieces became but a part of a notable exhibition of three hundred and twenty-four numbers, not including the exhibit of crafts.

This response has been most gratifying to the committee, whose members fully appreciate the warm cordiality with which the artists invited to exhibit have met them and endeavored to make the event the success it has proved to be.

Messrs. Polasek, Donato, Laessle, Portnoff, de' Nesti, Bilotti, and many other sculptors, not the least of whom is Maraffi, who besides exhibiting a charming Mother and Child, has an excellent portrait bust of Mr. Edward T. Stotesbury, which, with Polasek's wonderful bronze bust of J. Pierpont Morgan, attract much attention, are represented. In painting, canvasses by Seyffert, Raditz, Susan, Schofield, Wagner, Rittenberg, Sartain, Miss Emily Sartain, and many others do credit to the city.

Prizes amounting to \$2,200 have been offered by Mrs. Stotesbury, vice-chairman of the National Americanization Committee, to be divided among the classes represented as follows:

Oil Painting.....	\$500
Water Color Painting.....	500
Sculpture.....	500
Crafts.....	500
Illustration.....	200

These will be awarded toward the close of the exhibition in one or two prizes, as in the opinion of the jury of award may be deemed wise. A prize also will be offered for etching, if in the opinion of the jury the exhibits are deemed worthy.

The jury of award appointed by the committee are:

Miss Cecelia Beaux
George Walter Dawson
Charles Grafly
Edgar V. Seeler
Jessie Wilcox Smith

Preliminary to the exhibition, a competition was thrown open to students of the Academy of Fine Arts, the Pennsylvania School of Industrial Art and the Graphic Sketch Club, for the best poster, to be used for the meeting of the National Americanization Committee in this city and the "Americanization through Art" exhibition during the month when it would be open to the public. A great number of most admirable posters were received, a large majority of which showed talent. The first prize of one hundred dollars was awarded by the committee, of course in ignorance of the name or school of the competitors, to Mr. John W. Butler of the Graphic Sketch Club, as best expressing the thought of Mrs. Stotesbury's committee in getting up the exhibition.

Mr. Harry Tedlie, of the Graphic Sketch Club, was awarded the second prize of twenty-five dollars.

The Hanging Committee (Miss Sartain, Mr. John F. Lewis, and Mr. Samuel S. Fleisher) have done their work in a masterly way. The grouping of pictures on the screen presents to the eye a most artistic effect. Each screen has been filled with a view to harmony, and there is hardly a discordant note in the numerous combinations.

An illustrated catalogue will remain as a lasting memento of an event which long will be remembered among the art lovers and the sociologists of this city. The exhibition is a serious one and one that must be a memorable one to all who attended it. Not only is it composed of the selected pieces from each atelier, making a peculiarly fine display of art, but sociologically it is of great value.



SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

Since the publication of the October number of the BULLETIN two special exhibitions have been held in the Museum. During the month of October the Museum's collection of tiles of various countries and periods, increased by numerous temporary loans, were placed on exhibition in the rotunda and attracted much attention. Many of the specimens have long been in storage for lack of space and were shown for the first time. The exhibition included examples of Egyptian wall frescoes, Roman floor mosaics and bricks, Saracenic and Persian panels, and tiles from India, China, Turkey, Spain, Mexico, Italy, Holland, Switzerland, England, Belgium, Germany, Russia and America. An illustrated descriptive catalogue of the exhibition was printed for the use of visitors.

The large tiles from the nearer East, in the John T. Morris collection, which filled one case, formed the principal center of attraction. Among these is an architectural panel, measuring 8 by 14½ inches, covered with a white stanniferous enamel decorated with part of a bold cufic inscription in relief, outlined with brown on a ground of deep blue, through the center of which runs a narrow band of pale green enamel containing an embossed inscription